

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

L-02 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 PM-03 SAM-01

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R 271740Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8061

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2404

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB GR

SUBJECT: LABOR - GOG EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER RECENT
SERIES OF STRIKES

REF: ATHENS 2217

1. THE GREEK GOVERNMENTS CONCERN OVER A RECENT RASH OF STRIKES WAS DEMONSTRATED IN SIGNAL FASHION THE EVENING OF MARCH 26 WHEN GEORGE RALLIS, MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, APPEARED ON TV DURING PRIME VIEWING TIME TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT. RALLIS INDICATED THAT THE GOVT SYMPATHIZED WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE WORKERS AND HAD DONE WHAT IT COULD TO HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS THROUGH INCREASES IN THEIR WAGES WHICH HAD BEEN FROZEN DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DICTATORSHIP.

2. HOWEVER, RALLIS SAID, THE GOVT COULD NOT GRANT ANY ADDITIONAL INCREASES NOW WITHOUT ENDANGERING
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THE ECONOMY -- AND THE STABILITY OF THE ECONOMY IS OF

THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. HE CALLED ON CURRENT STRIKERS TO GO BACK TO WORK (HE POINTED SPECIFICALLY TO STRIKES AT AN ATHENS HOSPITAL AND BY SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS) AND URGED ALL THE NATIONS WORKERS TO FORBEAR FROM STRIKING. HE ASSERTED THAT BOTH THE GOG AND THE GREEK PEOPLE HAD THE SAME COMMON GOAL, I. E. TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY, AND HE PLEDGED THAT THE GOG WOULD NOT PERMIT IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS TO DISTURB THE PEACE OF THE NATION.

3. RALLIS' REMARKS SHOULD BE READ AGAINST BACKGROUND OF RECENT WORK STOPPAGES IN ATHENS AREA AMONG EMPLOYEES CONNECTED WITH AIR TRANSPORTATION AND ESPECIALLY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WHICH GREATLY INCONVENIENCED THE PUBLIC (REFTEL). FACT THAT GOG CHOSE RALLIS RATHER THAN LABOR MINISTER LASKARIS TO MAKE APPEAL TO NATIONS WORKERS IS INDICATION OF EXTENT GOG'S CONCERN. RALLIS IS NOT ONLY A PERSONAL CONFIDANT OF CARAMANLIS BUT ALSO AS MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS WITH SPECIAL WEIGHT WHEN HE ADDRESSES NATIONAL ISSUES.

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